

A Civilian Occupation, The Politics of Israeli Architecture
Rafi Segal and Eyal Weizman

February 12 – April 6, 2003*

Storefront for Art and Architecture is pleased to announce its current exhibition,
A Civilian Occupation: The Politics of Israeli Architecture.

Throughout the last century, a different kind of warfare has been radically transforming the landscapes of Israel and Palestine. The mundane elements of planning and architecture have been conscripted as tactical tools in the Israeli state strategy, seeking national and geo-political objectives in the organization of space. The landscape becomes the battlefield in which power and state control confront subversive and direct resistance. Planning decisions do not follow criteria of economic sustainability, ecology or efficiency of services; rather, they are employed to serve strategic and political agendas.

The project, developed by Tel Aviv based architects Rafi Segal and Eyal Weizman, incorporates investigations by Israeli architects, scholars, photographers and journalists addressing the political role of architecture and planning in the West Bank. Their research reveals the strategic nature of settlement planning through aerial photographs, maps, master plans and a comprehensive series of essays. The project supplements prevalent historical and political analysis of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict with a detailed description of its spatial dimension and the resulting physical transformations. Architecture is presented as a political issue - the material product of politics itself.

A Civilian Occupation was originally commissioned by the Israel Association of United Architects (IAUA) for the International Union of Architects Congress in Berlin, July 2002. However, upon completion of the catalog, the IAUA withdrew its support, canceled the exhibition and banned the catalog. The exhibition at Storefront for Art and Architecture is the first public presentation of the work. The catalog is being reprinted by Verso (London) and Babel (Tel Aviv) and will be available in the spring of 2003. The work will also be included in the exhibition **Territories**, at KW Institute for Contemporary Art Berlin in June 2003.

Rafi Segal and Eyal Weizman established their office in Tel Aviv in 2000. Recent projects include the redesign of the Ashdod Museum of Art (with Manuel Herz) and a set-design for the Kameri/Itim theatre company. In addition, Rafi Segal designed the internationally acclaimed Palmach Museum in Tel Aviv in partnership with Zvi Hecker. He has recently received the Young Architect Prize from the Israel Association of United Architects. Eyal Weizman is an architect based in Tel Aviv and London. He co-authored Land Grab, a human rights report, and conducted a map project of the West Bank for the human rights organization B'Tselem. Weizman is currently developing his doctoral thesis 'The Politics of Verticality / Architecture and Occupation in the West Bank and Gaza' into a book and a documentary film.

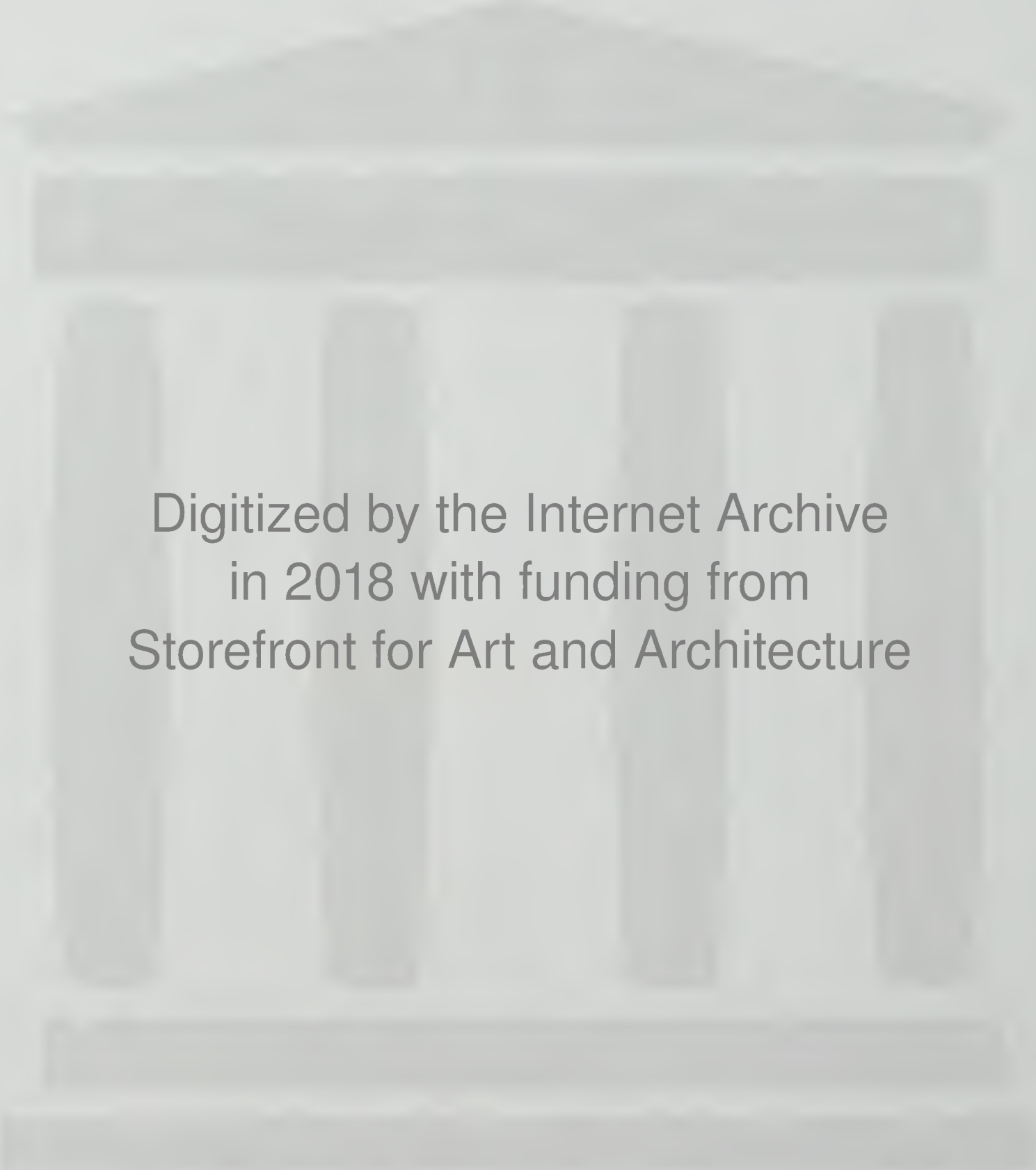
Founded in 1982, Storefront for Art and Architecture is a nonprofit organization committed to the advancement of innovative positions in art, architecture and design.

*Please note, exhibition has been extended until April 6, 2003

Gallery Hours:
Wednesday – Sunday, 11am - 6pm

Directions:
Storefront is located at 97 Kenmare Street between Mulberry Street and Cleveland Place, near Lafayette Street.
(subway: 6 Train to Spring St., N/R Train to Prince St)

Contact:
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Exhibition checklist

Settlement Matrix Wall

A matrix of Israeli settlement masterplans and outposts established in the West Bank from 1967 to 2002, organized according to their construction date and elevation above sea level.

Aerial Photographs

Milutin Labudovic for Shalom Achsahv [Peace Now]
21 color prints, 22"x33", 2002

Kfar Tapuah, Nablus Region
Ellon Moreh, Nablus Region
Hermesh, Nablus Region
Itamar, Nablus Region
Allon, Jerusalem Region, Jordan Valley
Pisgat Ze'ev and the Palestinian refugee camp of Shu'afat, Jerusalem
Eli and Palgei Ma'im outpost, Ramallah Region
Ofra and the Palestinian Village of Ein Yabrud, Ramallah Region
Ofra and the Palestinian village of At-Yayba, Ramallah Region
Otniel, Hebron Region
Ma'ale Edummim, Greater Jerusalem
Kfar Edummim (on the left) and Nofei Prat outpost, Jericho Region
Nahliel, Ramallah Region
Psagot overlooking Ramallah
Shaked, Jenin Region
Efrat (northern part), Bethlehem Region
Asa'el, Hebron Region
Jerusalem (northern part)
Sa'nur, Jenin Region
Derech Ha'avot outpost [Hebrew: the Way of the Pariahs], Bethlehem Region
Qedumim, and the Palestinian village of Kfar Qaddum, Nablus Region

Map of the Jewish Settlements in the West Bank

Produced by B'Tselem and Eyal Weizman
light box 51"x81"

Constructed View 1

Daniel Bauer
10' x 12' color photomontage on satin vinyl, 2003

Urban Warfare Video

4:30 minutes
anonymous contribution

A Civilian Occupation

Edited by Rafi Segal and Eyal Weizman
Designed by David Tartakover
10.5" x 14.5" color newsprint catalog, 2002

Land Grab

Researched and written by Yehezkel Lein in collaboration with Eyal Weizman
Published by B'Tselem, 2002

